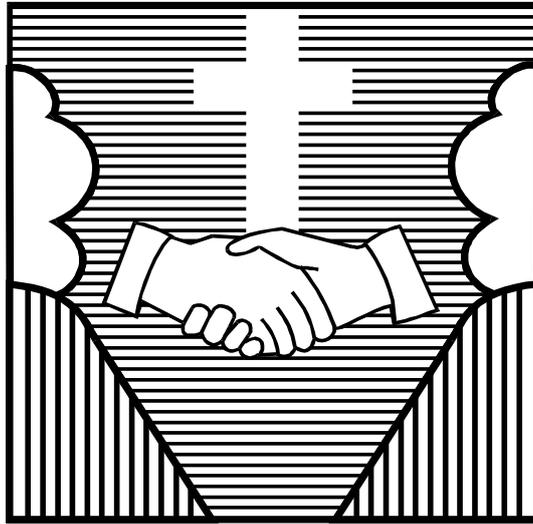


The Valley



Church

We are ordinary people led by an extraordinary God, whose love inspires us to welcome everyone, serve our communities and grow as we follow Jesus together

3rd December 2017 – Advent Sunday

09.30 Holy Communion with Gabrielle Smith & Roland Slade
11.00 Lantern Family Service in The Chapel with Graham & Sami

Services – December 2017

10 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion with Graham Watts 16.00 Lantern Lights Christingle with Graham & Sami Watts
17 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion in the Chapel 11.00 Lantern Family Service with Graham & Sami Watts
24 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion with Graham Watts 15.30 Crib Service with Graham & Sami Watts 16.30 Crib Service with Graham & Sami Watts
25 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion with Graham & Sami Watts

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an opportunity to meet to pray at 165 Marlow Bottom at 8pm tomorrow (4th December).

This year, our **Christingle service** is going to be slightly different as we are going to combine it with some elements of our 'Lantern Lights' service. So, as well as the traditional Christingle oranges, we are also hoping to provide a sandwich tea for the children who come and mulled wine & mince pies for the adults. If you can help by making cake, sandwiches or preparing the mull, please let Sami know. The service is on December 10th at 4pm, here at St. Mary's.

As a fun, festive and relaxed way of getting together before Christmas, all the 9.30 congregation are very warmly invited to an **Advent Tea at the Methodist Chapel on Saturday 16th December 3-4.30pm**. For more information, please contact Sue Bartram (472092) or Jennie Lewis (07703 361539).

Open house for New Year's Eve! Sami and Graham would love to welcome you for a drink and some nibbles to toast the end of 2017 and anticipate the New Year. On January 31st there will only be one church service in Marlow Bottom - a joint Communion at Marlow Bottom Methodist chapel at 10.30. so if you would like to join us at [165 Marlow Bottom straight](#) afterwards for a glass of something bubbly, then we will be hosting open house until 1pm (or a little later, but not for lunch). Do let us know if you can make it, thank you!

Small Groups 4u We have had a great term with small groups including Alpha, healthy cooking, craft and studying Revelations. We now need to start planning for the Spring term starting in the New Year. So please think and pray about ideas you might have for a small group. We would particularly like to increase the range of activity based groups. If you would like to talk through an idea or have an idea but are unsure about leading a group then do contact the small group leadership team. So we can get things ready for next term before Christmas we need submissions for groups by 4th December. For a form or if you have any questions please email smallgroups@4u-team.org.

“GODWITHUS” In the build up to Christmas the Church of England has launched a scheme “GodWithUs” to promote going to church this Christmas and reflecting on the good news of God coming to be with us. There will be a series of videos on social media (filmed at All Saints, Wycombe) and reflections that you can receive by email or text. Do have a look and share with others. For info go to www.churchofengland.org/Christmas or text GODWITHUS to 88802

ALL SAINTS MARLOW CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th Dec: Marlow Choral “Come & Sing” Workshop at 1.30pm & Informal Concert of Christmas music at 5.30pm. Tickets £10 to include mulled wine & mince pie. For more information please ring Alison Rae 01628 482520

16th Dec: Bucks Symphonic Wind Ensemble

BARCLAY’S BANK MARLOW have very generously offered to collect food for needy families in Lane End and, if successful, 4 more branches will also launch the appeal in the run up to Christmas. If you are passing Barclay’s at the top of the High Street, any food items dropped into the shopping trolley in the Bank will be gratefully received.

Pop Up Cinema

All Saints Marlow are having a Pop Up Cinema over two nights

Tue 19th Dec @ 6:30 pm – The Polar Express

Wed 20th Dec @ 6:30 pm – Sister Act

Tickets are now available via the website: www.gourmetpicturecompany.co.uk/marlow.

Readings for next week: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Mark 1: 1-8



four churches,
one vision

TOGETHER IN **PRAYER** 4U Team

Week beginning 3rd December 2017

A Prayer for Advent Wilderness is the place of Moses, a place of no longer captive and not yet free, of letting go and learning new living. Wilderness is the place of Elijah, a place of silence and loneliness, of awaiting the voice of God and finding clarity. Wilderness is the place of John, a place of repenting, of taking the first steps on the path to peace. Wilderness is the place of Jesus, a place of preparation, of getting ready for the reckless life of faith. We thank you God for the wilderness, wilderness is our place. As we wait for the land of promise. Teach us the ways of new living, lead us to where we hear your word most clearly, renew us and clear out the wastelands of our new lives, prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ's coming, when the deserts will sing and the wilderness blossom as the rose.

Give thanks for the safe and successful "sleep out" last week for those who participated and for those who provided refreshment and security. **Give thanks** for the experiences of those coming to the end of the Alpha courses.

Give thanks for our friends, families and carers, all who support and nurture us; for the joy of sharing worship together and for a shared hospitality. Help us to be an open and welcoming church to all and any who seek to know our Lord better and to draw closer to God. Help us to be tolerant and respectful to each other and all whom we meet. **Give thanks** for the beauty of our towns and cities for the advantages we enjoy.

Pray for the people of Yemen, isolated and facing starvation, a cholera epidemic and devastation of crops, homes and livelihoods. **Pray** the embargo will be lifted and aid allowed into the country to bring some relief to the millions at risk.

Pray for those involved with the negotiations around Brexit, for patience, grace and generosity.

Pray for the opportunities to move forward in the power of a new Spirit as we grow in new and exciting directions as ordinary people with our extraordinary God. **Pray** for our Team Council that there will be new ways to include all our congregations in a generous and inclusive church community, where all are valued and loved equally. **Pray** that the exciting potential opportunities for growth will be discerned by prayer and careful consideration with God's guiding hand particularly in the matter of Holy Trinity Church.

Pray for all those fleeing from oppression, violence and poverty, in Europe they may find a welcome and a safe haven offering hope, security and love for the future. **Pray** especially for the escalating crisis of the Rohingya community fleeing violence in Myanmar resulting from religious intolerance and for Coptic Christians and recently Muslim communities in Egypt facing persecution for their faith.

Pray for those who are sick in body mind or spirit and all those who have asked for our prayers, give thanks for those who are healing. **Pray** for those who are elderly and housebound, or living in residential homes with few friends or visitors especially members of our church family.

Pray for those who have recently died and those who are still missed. May those who mourn them know the peace and love of Christ and his promise of eternal life